

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF CRAVEN MET IN REGULAR SESSION IN THE COMMISSIONERS’ ROOM OF THE CRAVEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 406 CRAVEN STREET, NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2003. THE MEETING CONVENED AT 8:30 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Chairman Johnnie Sampson, Jr.
- Vice Chairman Lee Kyle Allen
- Commissioner George Brown
- Commissioner Bill Harper
- Commissioner Perry Morris
- Commissioner M. Renée Sisk
- Commissioner Leon C. Staton

STAFF PRESENT:

- Harold Blizzard, County Manager
- George B. Sawyer, Assistant County Manager
- Richard F. Hemphill, County Finance Officer
- Ray H. Moser, Human Resources Director
- Gwendolyn M. Bryan, Clerk to the Board
- James R. Sugg, County Attorney

Following an invocation by Commissioner Sampson and the Pledge of Allegiance, Commissioner Sisk moved to approve minutes of the November 3, 2003 regular session, seconded by Commissioner Staton and unanimously carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Craven County Tax Administrator, Ronnie Antry, submitted the following routine requests for tax releases and refunds for the Board’s approval. Commissioner Brown moved for their approval, seconded by Commissioner Harper and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

Credits

TAXPAYER NAME	TICKET #	AMOUNT
BENJAMIN, KENNETH S & ALICE M CORRECTING APPRAISAL ERROR	2003-0003826	\$ 21.95
BROTHERS, WANDA R DID NOT OWN 1/1/2003	2003-0006050	\$ 29.84
CARPENTER INVESTMENTS INC FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	1994-0006777	\$ 101.90
CARPENTER INVESTMENTS INC FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	1995-0006929	\$ 94.57
CARPENTER INVESTMENTS INC FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	1996-0007157	\$ 89.65
CARPENTER INVESTMENTS INC FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	1997-0007235	\$ 84.29
CARPENTER INVESTMENTS INC FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	1998-0007344	\$ 77.89

CARPENTER INVESTMENTS INC FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	1999-0007684	\$ 74.45
CARPENTER INVESTMENTS INC FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2000-0007854	\$ 70.27
CARPENTER INVESTMENTS INC FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2001-0007916	\$ 36.84
CARPENTER INVESTMENTS INC FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2002-0008022	\$ 44.69
CARPENTER INVESTMENTS INC FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2003-0008060	\$ 36.89
CEI ANTENNAS INC NOT IN BUSINESS 1/1/2003	2003-0091181	\$ 49.96
GREENWOD, PAUL E MILITARY – HIS NAME ONLY LES – TN ECC – NONE (LTCOL)	2003-0020483	\$ 39.34
HUBBARD, MARY LEE FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	1994-0021431	\$ 56.09
HUBBARD, MARY LEE FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	1995-0021665	\$ 53.24
HUBBARD, MARY LEE FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	1996-0022262	\$ 50.22
HUBBARD, MARY LEE FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	1997-0022620	\$ 47.23
HUBBARD, MARY LEE FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	1998-0022681	\$ 44.01
HUBBARD, MARY LEE FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	1999-0023672	\$ 41.25
HUBBARD, MARY LEE FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2000-0024342	\$ 39.23
HUBBARD, MARY LEE FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2001-0024538	\$ 38.31
HUBBARD, MARY LEE FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2002-0024850	\$ 44.99
HUBBARD, MARY LEE FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2003-0025051	\$ 37.25
LEE HANCOCK & LASSITER PA RECYCLE FEE CHARGED IN ERROR	2003-0030112	\$ 32.00
OWENS, PHILLIP W & ANDREA MARI NOT IN BUSINESS 1/1/2003	2003-0091268	\$ 16.15
PITSER, KENNETH NORMAN VALUE ADJUSTED PER BILL OF SALE	2003-0091276	\$ 228.54

ROGERS, LULA B FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	1994-0037199	\$ 143.85
ROGERS, LULA B FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	1995-0037378	\$ 137.65
ROGERS, LULA B FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	1996-0038211	\$ 116.22
ROGERS, LULA B FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	1997-0038789	\$ 109.51
ROGERS, LULA B FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	1998-0038852	\$ 98.22
ROGERS, LULA B FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	1999-0040723	\$ 92.10
ROGERS, LULA B FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2000-0041890	\$ 86.72
ROGERS, LULA B FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2001-0042251	\$ 25.20
ROGERS, LULA B FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2002-0042957	\$ 28.83
ROGERS, LULA B FORECLOSURE – LIEN EXTINGUISHED	2003-0043320	\$ 22.89
WATSON, JOHN G NOT LOCATED HERE 1/1/2003	2003-0052840	\$ 778.40
WINE FAIRY INC CORRECTING APPRAISAL ERROR	2003-0091326	\$ 15.40

36 – CREDIT MEMO (S) \$ 3,236.03

Refunds

BAKER, NANCY CORRECTING APPRAISAL ERROR	2002-0002127	\$ 72.25
BAKER, NANCY CORRECTNG APPRAISAL ERROR	2003-0002139	\$ 69.91
CRUZ, EFFIE F H PROPERTY VACANT	2002-0011638	\$ 32.00
CRUZ, EFFIE F H PROPERTY VACANT	2003-0011732	\$ 32.00
RAGIN, TINA PETERSON LATE PENALTY CHARGED IN ERROR	2003-0041441	\$ 11.87

5 – REFUND (S) \$ 218.03

Budget Amendments

Craven County Finance Officer, Rick Hemphill, submitted the following budget amendments for the Board’s approval. Commissioner Brown moved for their approval, seconded by Commissioner Harper and unanimously carried in a roll call vote.

Meals/Senior Services

REVENUES	AMOUNT	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
101-7294-336-31-00	\$ 1,000.00	101-7294-450-32-12	\$ 1,000.00
George St. Center		George St Center events	
101-7296-336-31-00	\$ 500.00	101-7296-450-32-12	\$ 500.00
Vanceboro Center		Vanceboro Center events	
101-7297-336-31-00	\$ 500.00	101-7297-450-32-12	\$ 500.00
Havelock Center		Havelock Ctr events	
101-7298-336-31-00	\$ 500.00	101-7298-450-32-12	\$ 500.00
Harlowe Center		Harlowe Ctr Spec Events	
TOTAL	\$ 2,500.00	TOTAL	\$ 2,500.00

Justification: Budget to set up expenditures and revenues for each center to be able to collect and expend funds donated for special events at each individual center.

Meals/Senior Services

101-7295-336-36-00	\$ 6,000.00	101-7295-450-40-00	\$27,973.00
Cost Share		Contr. Services	
101-7295-377-55-00	\$11,414.00		
Title III D			
101-7295-349-63-0	\$ 5,807.00		
General Purpose			
101-7295-377-51-0	\$ 4,752.00		
Title V			
TOTAL	\$27,973.00	TOTAL	\$27,973.00

Justification: Amendment to budget other Program funds to cover the costs of the Meals Program.

APPOINTMENTS

Rural Planning Organization

The Board considered the expiring initial term on the Rural Planning Organization of the County’s municipal official appointee, Tom Bayliss, Mayor of the City of New Bern. Commissioner Sampson nominated Mr. Bayliss for reappointment to a regular term of two years. Commissioner Brown moved to close nominations, seconded by Commissioner Harper and unanimously carried, with Mr. Bayliss being reappointed by acclamation.

Board of Equalization and Review

The Board considered a request by Tax Administrator, Ronnie Antry, to make an appointment to the Board of Equalization and Review to replace Mr. Kellon McMillian, who is deceased. Commissioner Brown moved to defer this appointment until the Board’s next meeting, seconded by Commissioner Morris and unanimously carried.

Upcoming Appointments

The Board was advised of the upcoming appointments in December on the Cove City Library Board, the Regional Library Board and Commissioners appointments to boards and committees.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

Tax Administrator Honored

County Manager, Harold Blizzard, advised the Board that Craven County Tax Administrator, Ronnie Antry, has just been elected by his peers as the County Tax Assessor of the Year at the Annual Conference of the North Carolina Association of Assessing Officers. The Board gave Mr. Antry a standing ovation for his dedication and outstanding work in Craven County and statewide through his activities with his professional association.

Request by Harlowe Community Center

Mr. Blizzard reminded the Board that \$3,000 was appropriated to the Harlowe Community Center in the current budget for non-specified uses. Previously budget allocations by the County Commissioners to non-profit organizations, particularly community centers, have been made for specific uses, such as capital improvements or equipment. Representatives of Harlowe Community Center had requested to utilize the appropriation to pay operations cost; however, they subsequently presented an alternate request. Commissioner Staton requested that funds allocated to the Harlowe Community Center in the current year's budget be utilized for removal of three trees which threaten the building and repairs to the entry door and several other doors. Commissioner Staton moved to approve use of the funds as requested, seconded by Commissioner Allen and unanimously carried.

Drainage on Tuscarora Road

At its last meeting, the Board received a request from Mr. Charles Simmons that the County intercede with the Department of Transportation concerning drainage of ditches on Tuscarora Road. Mr. Blizzard reported that he had contacted the Department of Transportation, as directed by the Board, to determine the status of a request to investigate the problem. He stated that the Department of Transportation had not yet acted on this matter, but had indicated their intent to check on it within the next week.

Commissioner Allen inquired about the status of hurricane debris removal by the Department of Transportation in areas other than Belangia Road. He stated that he had received inquiries from residents in the Ketner Heights area; however, he stated that he would gather more specific information and get back with the County Manager.

Commissioner Sampson advised the Board that the City of New Bern has agreed to take over some of the bookkeeping functions of the Community Resource and Development Center, formerly known as Weed & Seed, including auditing of the books and taking care of paying some of the expenses. As a result he requested that the County channel its annual appropriation to the agency through the City. He further explained that the cost of private auditors and bookkeeping services had proven to be prohibitive for the agency. Commissioner Sampson moved, and Commissioner Sisk seconded, a motion to transfer the County's allocation to the New Bern Improvement Association through the City of New Bern. The motion carried unanimously. County Manager, Harold Blizzard, clarified that the appropriation will continue to be distributed quarterly.

Report of Surplus Auction Results

Assistant County Manager, George Sawyer, reported on the results of the auction, which he had been authorized to conduct by the Board of Commissioners at its meeting on October 20, 2003, authorizing his disposal of the following items:

Craven County Auction		
Saturday, November 15, 2003		
	Buyer	
	Number	Amount
Telephone System	22	\$ 1.00
Ping Pong Table	18	\$ 1.00
Ladder 6 ft Wood	33	\$ 5.00
6 Secretarial Chairs (2 grey, 3 mauve, 1 brown)	41	\$ 5.00
11 Stackable plastic chairs (Burgundy)	39	\$ 10.00
6 Secretarial Chairs (4 grey, 1 mauve, 1 brown)	34	\$ 2.00
5 Secretarial Chairs (3 grey, 1 black, 1 pink)	34	\$ -
6 Wooden chairs	1	\$ 20.00
5 Secretarial Chairs (1 grey, 1 brown, 1 pink, 1 tweed, 1 burg)	5	\$ 7.00
10 Plastic stacking brown chairs	5	\$ -
5 mixed chairs (1 blue, 2 brown, 1 burgundy, 1 wood)	39	\$ 2.00
Oval wood coffee table	12	\$ 5.00
Bed Frame, Bulletin Board, 2 desks	33	\$ 2.00
Desk with accessories	33	\$ -
General Electric freezer	33	\$ -
General Electric refrigerator	22	\$ 5.00
Panasonic Microwave	29	\$ 9.00
Whirlpool Icemaker	14	\$ 65.00
Sears Chest freezer S002047411	24	\$ 2.00
Assorted electronics	24	\$ -
Ricoh FT 4418 Copier	37	\$ 20.00

Dental Accessories rollabout	39	\$ 3.00
Dental Accessories rollabout	39	\$ -
Dental Accessories rollabout	39	\$ -
Savory Commercial Toaster	24	\$ 1.00
Double Pedestal Metal Desk	20	\$ 5.00
2 boxes of Books w/ Rollabout	18	\$ 1.00
Drafting Table (Cal Comp)	6	\$ 45.00
4 boxes of binders	26	\$ 2.00
Brother Typewriter & Dictaphone	34	\$ 1.00
Epson Printer & Keyboard tray	34	\$ -
Ricoh Fax	34	\$ -
Panasonic Fax	34	\$ 1.00
Xerox 6025 Memorywriter	29	\$ -
Xerox 615 Memorywriter	29	\$ -
6 assorted calculators	29	\$ 1.00
1 Box Printer, Telephones, 3 boxes binders	26	\$ 1.00
3 monitors, 1 CTB CPU	4	\$ 12.00
3 monitors, 1 CPU	24	\$ 6.00
2 CPUS, 2 monitors, 1 printer (5)	24	\$ 4.00
2 CPUS, 2 monitors, 1 printer (5)	47	\$ 5.00
2 CPUS, 2 monitors, 2 printers, 2 keyboards (8)	24	\$ 40.00
2 CPUS,1 printer, 2 monitors, 3 keyboards,	45	\$ 45.00
1 LargePlastic Fishtank (Blue), 1 Stainless sink	26	\$ 18.00
Fisher Scientific Isotemp Refrigerator	29	\$ 1.00
Xerox Memorywriter 6045, Adler Typewriter	47	\$ 6.00
Canon Faxphone, Texas Instrument Printer	47	\$ -

IBM Printer	32	\$ 1.00
HP Printer, Adler typewriter	50	\$ 4.00
3 Monitors, 2 CPUS, 1 Printer (6)	24	\$ 8.00
3 Monitors, 2 CPUS, 1 Printer (6)	24	\$ 10.00
3 Monitors, 1 CPU, 1 Printer (5)	34	\$ 10.00
3 Monitors, 1 CPU, 1 Printer, 1 UPS (6)	24	\$ 50.00
2 IBM Typewriters w/ 1 Box of accessories	14	\$ 2.00
2 small screens w/ 1 box of accessories	45	\$ 50.00
Panasonic printer, Epson printer, Brother scanner (3)	45	\$ -
Printer Tray, Cell Dyn 1400 (2)	45	\$ -
Zenith Video Recorder		
Gas Air Compressor 5 HP	39	\$ 105.00
GO TO VEHICLES at Front of Building	0	\$ -
1996 Ford Vin # 2FALP71W6TX107442 Burgundy Mileage 176,736 (USSI)	43	\$ 1,400.00
1994 Ford Vin # 2FALP71W6RX161753 White Mileage 180,531 (USSI)	10	\$ 1,000.00
1991 Chevrolet Vin # 1G1JC54G9M7216726 White Mileage 187,310 (USSI)	6	\$ 300.00
1994 Ford Crown Vic Vin # 2FALP71WXR136905 Burgundy Mileage 167,792 (USSI)	12	\$ 700.00
1994 Ford Crown Vic Vin # 2FALP71W3RX136907 Burgundy Mileage 139,528 FX # 19033	19	\$ 1,500.00
1995 Chevrolet Corsica Vin#1G1LD55M6SY269546 White Mileage 119,300 FX # 19343	13	\$ 800.00
1993 Ford F350 Vin # 1FDHF37Y7PNA95387 White Mileage 130,323 FX # 17497	24	\$ 1,600.00
1984 Ford F 350 Vin # 1FDJF37G8ENA68642 White Mileage 81,765 FX # 14735	12	\$ 1,800.00
1989 Chev Cavalier Vin # 1G1JC5113K7191481 White Mileage 100,561 FX 11809	5	\$ 650.00
1995 Ford Crown Vic Vin # 2FALP71W1SX151749 Burgundy Mileage 160,478 FX # 19283	38	\$ 875.00
1997 Chev AstroVan Vin # 1GNDM19W3VB127671 White Mileage 179.353 FX 21659	13	\$ 2,000.00
1997 Ford F 150 Vin # 1FTDF1766VNC38767 White Mileage 150,154 FX 17024	24	\$ 3,300.00

1988 Chevrolet Pick up Vin #1GCDK14K0JZ132539 Yellow Mileage 96,697 FX # 14225 Airport	12	\$ 850.00
1991 Chevrolet Corsica Vin#1G1LT53G0MY196970 White Mileage 92,637 FX 14168	23	\$ 600.00
1996 Ford Crown Vic Vin # 2FALP71W2TX107440 Burgundy Mileage 142,674 FX #19573	19	\$ 1,550.00
1988 Chevrolet Wrecker 1GBHR34K3JJ131669 White Mileage 149,831 FX # 13898	39	\$ 6,300.00
1988 350 Diesel Ford Ambulance Black Vin # 1FDHS34M9JHA83759 Mileage 134,595 FX #1145	12	\$ 650.00
1990 Chev Cavalier Vin # 1G1JC54G0L7143888 White Mileage 101,567 FX 12775	48	\$ 650.00
1991 Chev Corsica Vin # 1G1LT53G5MY197158 White Mileage 89,651 FX 14172	46	\$ 575.00
1988 Mustang Vin # 1FABP41A3JF156394 Black Mileage 130,053 FX # 21773	41	\$ 400.00
1992 Ford Tempo Vin # 1FACP36X3NK147607 White Mileage 103,147 FX 14570	30	\$ 475.00
1995 Ford Crown Vic Vin # 2FALP71W0SX151743 Burgundy Mileage 161,864 FX 19277	31	\$ 1,200.00
1986 Chevrolet Bus Vin # 1GBG6P1B0GV120159 White Mileage 161,596 FX # 1144	49	\$ 1,500.00
Total		\$ 31,274.00
Vehicles		\$ 30,675.00
Other		\$ 599.00
Total by Type		\$ 31,274.00
General		\$ 30,424.00
Water		
Airport		\$ 850.00
Total by Fund		\$ 31,274.00

**FINAL ASSESSMENT RESOLUTION FOR NEUSE HARBOUR STREET
IMPROVEMENTS**

County Attorney, Jim Sugg, read the following resolution into the record which was scheduled to be the subject of a public hearing at 9:00 a.m.

FINAL ASSESSMENT RESOLUTION

**CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS-IMPROVEMENTS TO SUBDIVISION ROADS**

NEUSE HARBOUR SUBDIVISION

WHEREAS, Craven County is authorized pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 153A-185(4) to make special assessments against benefited property within the County for all or part of the cost of “Constructing, reconstructing, paving, widening, installing curbs and gutters, and otherwise building and improving streets, as provided in G.S. 153A-205”; and,

WHEREAS, Craven County is authorized pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 153A-205(b) to finance the local share of the cost of improvements made under the supervision of the Department of Transportation to subdivision and residential streets located in the County and outside a municipality, in order to bring those streets up to the standards of the Secondary Roads Council so that those streets may become a part of the State-maintained system, and in doing so shall levy and collect, pursuant to the procedures of Article 9 of Chapter 153A of the General Statutes, special assessments against benefited property to recoup that portion of the costs financed by the County; and,

WHEREAS, the local share is that share required by the policies of the Secondary Roads Council, and may be paid by Craven County from funds not otherwise limited as to use by law; and,

WHEREAS, Craven County has received a petition to finance the entire portion of the costs of improvements to certain subdivision and residential streets within the Neuse Harbour Subdivision; and,

WHEREAS, Craven County has determined that said petition is made in full conformity with N.C. Gen. Stat. § 153A-205, including, but not limited to, being signed by at least seventy-five percent (75%) of the owners of property to be assessed, who also represent at least seventy-five percent (75%) of all the lineal feet of frontage of the lands abutting on the streets or portions thereof to be improved; and,

WHEREAS, the project will be described more particularly hereafter and has been verbally approved by the Department of Transportation; and,

WHEREAS, the Craven County Board of Commissioners has previously adopted a preliminary assessment resolution, said resolution evidencing its intent to finance the entire costs of said proposed project.

WHEREAS, the Craven County Board of Commissioners has held a public hearing in conformity with North Carolina Gen. Stat. § 153A-192, and now desires to adopt a final assessment resolution directing that the project be undertaken.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Craven County Board of Commissioners as follows:

1. The project to improve Lafitte Way (West), Magellan Drive, Cavendish Court, Taliaferro Lane, Drake Landing (North) and Balboa Court, all in the Neuse Harbour Subdivision, as said streets and subdivision are depicted on maps recorded in Plat Cabinet E, Slides 30-34 and Plat Cabinet E, Slide 324 in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Craven County, North Carolina, is hereby approved and the proper officers of the County are directed to undertake said project.
2. The project will consist of construction activities to improve said streets, so that the same may be brought up to the standards of the Secondary Road Council to become a part of the State-maintained system. Construction activities will include such items as are necessary to bring said streets up to the standards of the Secondary Road Council to become a part of the state-maintained system, said items being more particularly described in that certain Contract Proposal by Edward B. Latham, P.E., said proposal being incorporated herein by reference.
3. The proposed basis for making assessments will be by assessing equally lots 15 through 50, 62 through 80, and 103 through 150 in said subdivision. Each lot to be assessed will be assessed equally.
4. The entire cost of the work (100%) shall be specially assessed.
5. No assessment shall be held in abeyance.
6. Special assessments herein may be paid in annual installments over a ten (10) year period. The first installment is due on the date when property taxes are due, and one installment is due on the same date in each successive year until the assessment is paid in full. Any portion of an assessment that is not paid within thirty (30) days after the day that notice of confirmation of the assessment role is published shall, until paid, bear interest at the rate to be set by the Craven County Board of Commissioners at the time the final costs of the project are determined and/or the preliminary assessment role is confirmed.
7. The Chairman, Vice Chairman, Clerk, Manager, Finance Officer and County Attorney are hereby authorized to execute any and all documents and to take all steps necessary to accomplish the purposes contained within this resolution.

8. Construction shall not commence on the project until such time as the North Carolina Department of Transportation approves the project in writing.

There was discussion concerning the basis for establishing an interest rate for the assessment and when that should be established. There was consensus that the interest rate should reflect the prime rate, but it was not resolved whether it should be the prime rate at the date of the first billing or the average rate over a specified period of time.

PUBLIC HEARING – NEUSE HARBOUR ASSESSMENT

At 9:05 a.m. Commissioner Morris moved to go into public hearing as scheduled, to receive public input on the Assessment Resolution, seconded by Commissioner Staton and unanimously carried. The following citizens spoke:

1. *Albert Reese* of 308 Magellan Drive, inquired if permits were issued at the time that Neuse Harbour roads were first developed, if the roads were inspected, and if not, why? County Manager, Harold Blizzard, stated that the roads had been built to standard initially; however, there was a time lapse before the number of houses in the subdivision were adequate to meet the density requirements. During that period of time, the roads deteriorated and subsequently were determined not to be up to standard. Mr. Reese also questioned whether or not Neuse Harbour residents who signed the petition and voted to seek the assessment were all owners who would be affected by this assessment.
2. *Ed Guinco* of 227 Drake Landing, identified himself as the President of the Neuse Harbour Property Owners Association. He informed the Board that 104 owners in Neuse Harbour had signed the petition requesting that the County advance funds for road improvement and assess property owners, and that the 104 citizens were only owners of property on streets affected by the assessment. He stated that over 75% voted to proceed with the project. He was in favor of averaging the prime interest rate to determine the interest rate for the assessment and inquired if there would be any penalty for early pay-off. The County Manager and County Attorney indicated that there would be no such penalty.
3. *Ms. Johnnie Bunting* of 215 Drake Landing, recounted that the sewer moratorium that was imposed on the Neuse River Water and Sewer District in the early to mid 1990's resulted in a slow down of building on the lots in Neuse Harbour, which affected the rate at which the density on the roads was established. Roads were initially built to state maintenance standards; however, the standard has become more stringent over the years and simultaneously the roads began to deteriorate. She stated that, to her knowledge, only two affected owners are not happy with the proposed assessment, while 104 are in favor.
4. *Robert Davis* of 7175 Highway 70 East, stated that he is the owner of a vacant lot in Neuse Harbour, located on the corner of Neuse Harbour Blvd., which has been taken over by the State, and Magellan Drive, which is a street included in the proposed improvement plan. He questioned why the County had released the letter of credit that was required for Neuse Harbour Phase I and challenged the requirement for him to pay as part of the assessment inasmuch as part of his frontage is on a road already maintained by the State. Ms. Bunting spoke in response stating that the Property Owners Association had utilized the official addresses of each lot and that his property is listed as a Magellan Drive address.

County Attorney, Jim Sugg, stated for the record that everything seems to be in order for the proposed project to proceed, except Lafite Way. He stated that Lafite Way is lacking one house before it can establish the required density to be taken over by the State. He advised that it could be paved now in the proposed project; however, if the road is not at standard when the density criteria are met, someone would need to pay to bring the road

to standard at that time. County Manager, Harold Blizzard recommended that property owners on Lafite Way be canvassed to determine if they wish to be included at this time. It was determined that although there are nineteen lots on Lafite Way, there are only three houses presently, and most of the lots are owned by a single owner.

At 9:42 a.m. Commissioner Sisk moved to close the public hearing, seconded by Commissioner Brown. Commissioner Allen expressed the opinion that the County should offer and make provisions to include Lafite Way in the project, and give the owners the option to participate or not. It was the consensus of the Board to defer consideration of the resolution pending receipt of bids, a determination on whether or not Lafite Way should be included, and an agreement on the basis for establishing the interest rate.

At 9:45 a.m. the Board was declared in recess.

The Board reconvened at 9:58 a.m.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public Hearing on FY 2003 CDBG Scattered Site Program Amendment

Chip Bartlett of the Planning Department explained that the requested program amendment would shift rehabilitation funds to the CDBG relocation line item, resulting in \$70,000 allocated for rehabilitation and \$20,000 allocated to demolition and clearance. He stated that the project would accommodate three rehabilitations and six relocations.

At 10:00 a.m. Commissioner Sisk moved to open the public hearing, as advertised, to receive public input on the request, seconded by Commissioner Brown and unanimously carried. There were no speakers who wished to address the Board and at 10:01 a.m. the Board went out of public hearing.

Commissioner Harper inquired if any of the subject properties are owned by elected officials or their relatives. Mr. Bartlett responded that the title searches are still being conducted on the properties; however, the State imposes a conflict of interest policy on CDBG projects, which precludes such a relationship. Commissioner Allen moved to adopt the requested program amendment, seconded by Commissioner Morris and unanimously carried.

Road Naming and Addressing Ordinance

At 10:05 a.m. Commissioner Sisk moved to go into public hearing, as advertised, to consider amendments to the Road Naming and Addressing Ordinance, seconded by Commissioner Brown and unanimously carried. Planning Director, Don Baumgardner, advised the Board that the requested amendments encompass either additions of new subdivision roads approved by the Board of Commissioners and Planning Board or a set of corrections to address spelling errors, duplications and omissions. The following citizens spoke:

1. *Herb Rawls* of 3813 Old Cherry Point Road, expressed the opinion that the published public notice was not specific enough in terms of which roads were being discussed, and he expressed opposition to roads and public facilities being named for individuals, living or dead. He requested that the County readvertise the public hearing notice with more specific information and that the County adopt a policy and send it in the form of a resolution to the Department of Transportation discouraging the use of individual names in the naming process. Mr. Baumgardner stated that the legal requirement does not mandate the listing of the roads in the ad, due to high costs, but simply requires that a public hearing held on the subject be announced, including the time, date and place of the public hearing. However, the detailed list of roads was posted, as required, in two places in the affected townships.

2. *Charles Simmons* of 2218 Tuscarora Road, inquired if only the last name of individuals is used when naming a street or road. Mr. Baumgardner responded that there is no specific law relating to the naming of roads other than one which requires that there is a petitioning process in place which guarantees concurrence of 75% of owners on the road seeking the naming.
3. *Estella Bryant* of 215 Sanders Lane inquired if there were any proposed changes to the naming or addressing of Sanders Lane properties. She was assured that Sanders Lane was not included in the proposed amendment.

It was determined that the Board of Commissioners did not have detailed road naming information on the amendment prior to the meeting, and it was recommended that action on the amendment be deferred until a complete list could be made available to Commissioners

At 10:30 a.m. Commissioner Sisk moved to go out of public hearing, seconded by Commissioner Brown and unanimously carried.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Harper urged public participation in his gasoline price protest by buying gas periodically outside of Craven County. He applauded residents in the area of James City who are taking on their own road improvements project.

Commissioner Sisk congratulated newly elected officials throughout the County and stated her readiness to support them. She reported that the military summit, which recently took place at Fort Bragg on the issue of protecting North Carolina's bases, was very informative.

Commissioner Staton expressed his distress with trash dumping on unoccupied roads in his district and stated that there is an effort underway with the Solid Waste Department to identify the perpetrators. He thanked the Board for its on-going support on Harlowe projects.

Commissioner Morris recognized the good job being done by the Neuse Center in its transition to implementation of new requirements and procedures.

Commissioner Allen reminded the Board of the employee's Thanksgiving luncheon and Havelock Chamber of Commerce Christmas party.

Commissioner Sampson reported on his attendance at a recent Rural Planning Organization meeting and stated that he spoke in favor of improvements to roads in the eastern area, specifically improvements to Highway 17 North and South.

At 10:45 a.m. Commissioner Sisk moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Brown and unanimously carried.

Chairman Johnnie Sampson, Jr.
Craven County Board of Commissioners

Gwendolyn M. Bryan, Clerk